

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 03041 280245Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 03041

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR BEGIN

REF: JERUSALEM 2037

1. PLEASE CONVEY IMMEDIATELY -- BY TELEPHONE IF NECESSARY
-- THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO BEGIN.
(FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THE ISRAELIS MAY NOT HAVE THE CAPA-
CITY TO DELIVER AS MANY AS TWELVE TANKS IN ONE SHIPMENT.
IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE THAT, THROUGH THE SECRETARY'S
PLEA, SOME SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE WEAPONRY THE
ISRAELIS INTEND TO SEND CAN STILL BE ACHIEVED. END FYI).

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. PRIME MINISTER:
I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM SAM LEWIS THAT YOU
HAD TOLD HIM YOU HAD DECIDED TO SEND NEW WEAPONS AND
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MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE MARONITE FORCES IN LEBANON.
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE TO
WORK CLOSELY AND COOPERATIVELY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO BRING
AN END TO FIGHTING AND CONFRONTATIONS IN LEBANON. THIS
MEANS THAT WE SHOULD CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER BEFORE TAKING
MAJOR NEW STEPS, PARTICULARLY STEPS WHICH COULD
HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES, AND FOR THAT REASON I APPRECIATE

YOUR BRINGING YOUR DECISION TO OUR ATTENTION.

3. THE SENDING OF ADDITIONAL WEAPONS TO THE MARONITE MILITIAS AT THIS TIME WILL HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE MILITARY EQUATION. I FEAR THAT THE ONLY EFFECT OF THIS DRAMATIC NEW SIGNAL OF ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR THE MARONITE MILITIAS WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR LEADERS TO BECOME EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE AND TO CHALLENGE THE SYRIANS. THEY WILL, I FEAR, FEEL SECURE IN DOING SO BECAUSE THEY WILL BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL WILL COME TO THEIR AID MILITARILY.

4. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED AT THE POTENTIAL EFFECT OF THE GOI DECISION, WHICH IS LIKELY TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, ON SADAT'S ABILITY TO SEND HIS FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS TO THE TRILATERAL TALKS.

5. YOUR GOVERNMENT AGREED WITH US AT THE END OF THE JULY 1-6 FIGHTING IN BEIRUT THAT THERE WAS A CHANCE THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER HEAVY SYRIAN SHELLINGS IF AN END TO THE PROVOCATIONS AND CHALLENGES TO THE SYRIAN FORCES BY THE MARONITE MILITIAS COULD BE ACHIEVED. YOUR GOVERNMENT SENT ADVICE ALONG THIS LINE TO YOUR CONTACTS IN LEBANON, BUT THE PROVOCATIONS DID NOT CEASE. THE SYRIAN FORCES BEHAVED WITH RESTRAINT DURING THE PERIOD OF THE CEASEFIRE UNTIL FIGHTING BROKE OUT AGAIN THIS
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WEEKEND, BUT DAY BY DAY THEY SUFFERED CASUALTIES. WE BELIEVE THIS CYCLE OF PROVOCATION AND RETALIATORY BOMBARDMENTS MUST SOMEHOW BE BROUGHT TO AN END, SO THAT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM COULD BE FOUND THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. I APPRECIATE THAT, AS YOU TOLD SAM LEWIS, YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE INSISTING THAT THE MARONITES STOP THEIR SNIPING AND HARRASSMENT OF THE SYRIANS. I BELIEVE YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN BE EFFECTIVE IN COUNSELLING RESTRAINT WITHOUT GIVING THEM MORE EQUIPMENT.

6. IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH BOTH OF US WANT TO BE THE HALLMARK OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IN ALL MATTERS, I MUST ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION AND TO DELAY THE SHIPMENTS OF THE NEW WEAPONRY AND AMMUNITION UNTIL WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT FURTHER. I ASK YOU EARNESTLY TO GIVE US A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH THE SYRIANS AND THE LEBANESE ON WAYS IN WHICH TO END THIS TRAGIC CYCLE OF VIOLENCE. WE HAVE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS THE SYRIANS WHEN THE LATEST CONFRONTATION OCCURRED TO END THE BOMBARDMENT AND HEAVY SHELLINGS. OUR WORDS MAY HAVE HAD THEIR EFFECT. THE SHELLING ABATED YESTERDAY, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO

SHELLING TODAY. THIS IS ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO GO
FORWARD WITH YOUR DECISION.

SINCERELY, CY.

YOUNG

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NNN

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